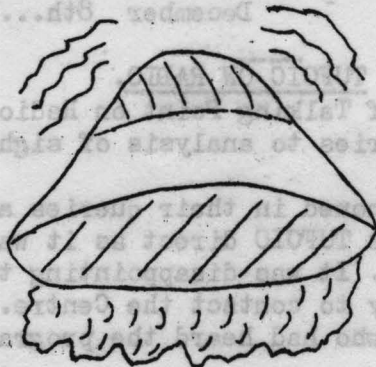


# TUFOIC

IN 1971

Hazy  
Vapour

Dull  
Silver



Glass  
Domed  
Top  
Exhaust  
Below

## LOW LEVEL UFO SEEN AT BRIGHTON

The Tasmanian Unidentified Flying Objects Investigation Centre,  
Annual Report for 1971.

### CONTENTS.

1. Meeting dates for 1972.
2. Sightings Summary 1971.
3. Extracts from Investigations in 1971,  
.....Dome Light on Mt Wellington.  
Landing at Lynchford?  
Car paced at Cethana.  
Bell shaped UFO at Brighton.  
Even more Landings at Wilmot.  
The December Flap.
4. Analysis of Tasmanian Reports 1948-71.
5. Old Sightings come to hand.
6. Calendar of Main Sightings in 1971.

### TUFOIC OFFICERS

President E.Bantick. Sightings Officers K.Bennetto.  
Sec/Treasurer Mrs J.Bigwood. K.Roberts.  
All correspondence to.....62 Leonard Ave, MOONAH. 7009.

### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of TUFOIC will be held on Friday February 11th at  
8pm, it will be as usual at the Adult Education Centre in Argyle St.

PRICE 15cents.

Edition No 7.

Join TUFOIC now, enquiries to our address above.

### TUFOIC 1971/72.

TUFOIC meets every two months, the dates for 1972 being listed below. Members may borrow library books and magazines, whilst Annual Reports and Newsheets are covered in the annual subscription of \$2.50. (Students and Pensioners \$1.25) Prospective Members or persons with information on sightings new or old are always welcome at meetings.

Meeting dates for 1972..... February 11th

April 14th

June 2nd

August 11th

October 13th

December 8th...We look forward to seeing you.

### TUFOIC ON RADIO.

TUFOIC were the guests of Talking Point on Radio 7HO on August 12th last. UFOs were discussed in general, from theories to analysis of sightings, landings, even "Snippy" the horse.

Some 20 to 30 listners phoned in their queries and sightings during the programme, 7HO requested they contact TUFOIC direct as it was not feasible to take down all the details during the broadcast. It was disappointing that none of the listners availed themselves of the opportunity to contact the Centre. However two reports even-tuated at a later date from people who had heard the programme and learnt there was an UFO group in existence.

TUFOIC would like to thank 7HO for enabling us to come before the public, also for their assistance throughout the year on reports received by them.

### SIGHTINGS SUMMARY 1971.

The year 1971 has been one of contrasts, initially the zero level activity at the end of 1970 continued on into the New Year. Basically there were two highs in reports received by the Centre, the first being in the May to July period, a reduced flow through to September, then nil activity until a flood of reports in December.

We had only one unexplained report up to the end of May, that being the December sighting on Mt Wellington. During the May to July period the scene changed, low level reports being the vogue. Three interesting cases from the Wilmot area, possibly a landing at Lynchford, and a further touch down at Norwood near Launceston. (Details of this case may be seen in the UFO Observer, Launceston).

Once again reports eased in the August-November period, although there were a series of lights in the sky cases around September. These reports had points in common, lights only, two or three at a time, fading, merging etc:

TUFOIC received a Christmas present in the way of a "Flap" starting in early December, even at the time of writing investigations have not been completed but we have printed the story to date on the details available. Due to good publicity in the Press and on Radio TUFOIC's resources were stretched almost to breaking point to look into all the reports, a special word of thanks to Ken Bennetto who gave up the best part of a week to investigate cases while they were only hours old.

Low level sightings have continued again this year, a few more reports in fact than last year. Did UFOs land in Tasmania in the past year, marks, noises, and close approaches seem to confirm that something inexplicable did occur.

Throughout the year TUFOIC has been in contact with the "UFO Observer" from Launceston and no doubt we will continue to exchange information in the next year. On the debit side is the folding-up of the Tas Flying Saucer Observers Ass; we are glad to say that Peter Dunbabin is now a member and continuing his interest in UFOs. TFSOA's sighting files have been added to our own records.

In our Investigations Report we have extracted the best cases for the year, in all over 50 reports were received by the Centre the majority having possible explanations such as Venus, planes, satellites, flares and the like.

### SEEN AN UFO, KNOW OF A SIGHTING?

Don't let a report slip past, the Centre is interested cases new and old, make a note if you see something yourself and let us know as soon as possible.

DONT FORGET...UFO REPORTS TO..K.BENNETTO Ph285248 or K.ROBERTS 236009 (evenings only)

DOME LIGHT ON MT. WELLINGTON

Early in January we learnt that an object had been seen on Mt. Wellington; contact with three youths who wished to remain anonymous (names on TUFOIC files) revealed the following sighting on the night of December 18th/19th, 1970.

The witnesses had parked their car by a children's playing area in New Town about 11p.m.; it was a fine, mild evening after a rather warm day (83°); evening stratus around Mt. Wellington had dissipated. They noticed a bright white star-like light some height above the mountain. This subsequently moved slowly south-east. A second light now appeared and also followed the first light. Finally, a third light appeared above the other two, and all three manoeuvred around each other above the mountain.

One of our witnesses went to telephone the details of what was happening to a local radio station, but was told that other people had seen the lights; it was only the H.E.C. working with searchlights between Mt. Direction and Mt. Wellington. This explanation later proved to be without substance, and as the station had not kept details of any calls, there was no way to follow up for corroborative evidence. Meanwhile, the lights had lined up and formed into one oval light, which seemed to move towards New Town before remaining stationary over the mountain. Not convinced with the explanation, two of our witnesses decided to drive to the Pinnacle for a closer look at the lights. On leaving New Town, they lost sight of the light. The sighting from New Town had lasted about half an hour and it was after midnight when they reached the top of Mt. Wellington - nothing to explain the lights was visible.

About 12.30a.m., they left the Pinnacle but had only travelled some half mile down the road when a star-like light was seen to the west following the skyline of Thark Ridge. It descended to a bright dome-shaped area of light situated just below the ridge about a mile away. They halted and watched similar lights blink on and approach the dome from above and to the right. There followed a series of lights coming and going to the dome; the witnesses became uneasy and continued their downhill trip. The lights were still visible until the hillside was lost to view.

Investigation showed that no major planets were in a position to cause the reported lights, whilst planes can be ruled out immediately. The location of the domed light is rough, uninhabited mountainside at 4,000 feet. A visit was made to the area but, due to the nature of the terrain, it proved too difficult to locate any possible landing marks. There appears to be no feasible explanation for the lights; and was it the parent dome? The sighting still remains unidentified.

"COBWEBS FROM THE SKY"

The "Advocate" of May 17th told of "cobwebs from the sky" - mystery cobwebs stringy and greasy fell on Montello. "It sticks to anything it touches", said Mr. R. Hodgets of Bird Street, Montello. Scientists identified the substance as the webs of newly hatched parasitic spider carried on certain wind and warmth conditions to fall far from their source. During the week, U.F.O.'s had actually been seen to drop "angels' hair" over South Australia. The winds over Tasmania, until the Saturday of the fall at Montello, had been from the south-west. How did our webs drift over from Victoria?

## THE UFOS LAND.....

The "Examiner" 5. 6.71 "UFO Hunt Moves to Launceston".

Bright lights, flattened undergrowth and an eyewitness report of an unidentified flying object have led to an investigation by the Tasmanian UFO Bureau in the Launceston area. The Bureau started the investigation after a man reported seeing three lights - red, white and blue - land in bush country two miles from the city. The man who wishes to remain anonymous said he saw the lights settle among trees in a paddock near the suburb of Norwood at 8.30p.m. on Saturday (22. 5.71).

He said : "The lights settled, then took off in a flash of colour like a sky rocket". The sighting prompted immediate investigation by the Tas. UFO Bureau who went to the area under the guidance of their President, Mr. J. Holden of Trevallyn. Mr. Holden said yesterday that the group found a flattened area of undergrowth and dense bracken and blackberry bushes. The flattened area was about 10 ft. in diameter, but had no specific shape and the undergrowth was not flattened in an orderly manner, he said.

(The "UFO Observer" investigation mentioned this as one of the best sightings on their files).

CAR PACED AT CETHANA

This series of sightings was not known of until mid July so that in retrospect it seems more than a coincidence that there were possibly three low-level UFO reports in as many days.

The following evening to our above newspaper extract (May 23rd), Mr. L.J. Riley was travelling home to Wilmot via the Cethana Dam Road, the time being 7.30p.m. The sighting commences when he was about a mile west of the dam climbing uphill to the Cradle Mountain-Wilmot Road junction.

Mr. Riley noticed a flicking reflection on his driver's side window; winding down his window he saw a round, coal-red object pacing his vehicle some 100 to 150 ft. away and about 100 ft. high. Mr. Riley says he was travelling at 25m.p.h. at the time. He felt a bit scared at first but says he suffered no after-effects, nor was his vehicle affected in any way.

The object was travelling behind timber growth and did cast a reflection on one of the tree trunks it passed. Mr. Riley accelerated to 35m.p.h., then over the next 1 miles speeded up to 45m.p.h. but the object still paced him at various distances, at one time being only 50 ft. from the road. As Mr. Riley approached the top of the hill and road junction to Wilmot, the object pulled slightly ahead. Mr. Riley stopped at the junction to have a better look at the thing. It appeared the size of a 10.00 x 20 tyre but with no markings. At this stage, the object was some 100 to 150 yds. away. No sound could be heard. Travelling in an up and down motion, the object went over the hill towards Wilmot. Mr. Riley continued on his way home and the object re-appeared after he had travelled some  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile. Again it was on his right, but crossed the road ahead of him and paced him for a short distance from behind some tall trees. It finally disappeared down a deep gully on his left. The sighting lasted in all about 15 minutes.

LANDING AT LONELY LYNCHFORD?

Before we delve into the complicated details of this West Coast report, we will mention that an hour or two before the Lynchford case commenced, a strange roaring noise was heard by a witness at Whiteford in the Midlands. The witness's cat responded to the noise. There were no passenger planes flying at that late hour and road traffic did not seem to fit the sound heard. Our witness heard the noise like gravel being tipped off a truck on a second occasion a few nights later. Now the scene shifts to Lynchford, which is an abandoned halt on the one time Queenstown to Strahan railway. Today, there is only one house at Lynchford occupied, of course, by the witnesses to the subsequent events near the house.

Mr. C. Archer was awoken about 2.00a.m. on May 25th by the barking and yelping of his dogs and a strange humming noise like a big loud generator. Looking out his bedroom window he was unable to see anything to account for the noise. However, it was apparent after that his car just outside the window obstructed his view of what was known later as the "UFO landing site". The noise faded away after half an hour. On May 26th a flattened area of grass and blackberries was found some 150 yds. from the house. The area, it was claimed, had not been there on the Monday morning (24th). The area was about 30 x 15 ft. with spiral swirls in the grass. Witnesses said it contained six indentations which showed no particular pattern.

The flattened areas made the three major newspapers in Tasmania on May 28th. The possibility of an UFO being responsible for the marks bring forth a variety of explanations. The "Examiner" wanted to know why anyone from space should choose to land in a blackberry patch! Heavy dews, wind gusts, stray animals, rotting roots, were all put forward to account for the puzzle. TUFOIC attempted to investigate the case and find a rational explanation, however, this was easier said than done; none of the possible causes for the "UFO site" accounted for all the known facts.

On May 27th, a car stopped 50 yds. from the "UFO site". It was ascertained by the police that the vehicle had an electrical fault. Two friends of Mr. Archer who visited the area claimed that their watches stopped after they had been to the "UFO site". Finally that afternoon, the four-month old kitten at the house appeared to be terrified of something; it tried to get out of the house, but died in minutes. The police conducted an autopsy on the cat but it was found to have been in excellent health. It had not been poisoned, or suffered from any diseases. The dogs which usually went off hunting stayed around the house for the next week and generally seemed dopy, related Mr. Archer. (The kitten was probably outside on the night of the humming noise).

In all, six flattened areas were found. After the initial discovery, a further five areas were located near the house, one the same size as the first area, the other four being about 10 ft. diameter with three indentations in each. These indentations were spaced in triangle shape, with a base of 3 ft. to an apex of 9 ft. The marks were claimed to be 8" deep. Samples of grass and earth were sent to the University of Tasmania, however, nothing unusual was noted from the tests taken.

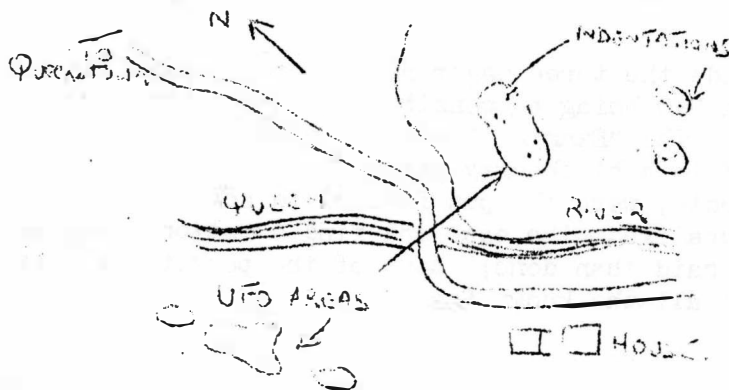


No UFO as such was seen but similarity to other well-known nests could not be ignored by TUFOIC. \* No explanations given for the case could account for all the puzzling incidents. The reaction of the dogs to the humming noise, indentations, flattened areas, the car with the electrical fault, watches stopped and the kitten's death.

Queenstown residents saw several UFO's after the Lynchford incidents, but these turned out to be stars and a four-wheel drive vehicle on a track up Mt. Owen. Witnesses at Lynchford claimed a sighting of an unusual light in the sky on the Saturday following the discovery of the "UFO site". The light was seen to come from it, moving in a rectangular course across the sky. A red light would then return along the shaft to the parent light. Witnesses estimated the light to be 10¢ sized at arm's length. The light was still stationary to the S.S.E. when the witnesses retired to bed after an hour of watching.

There had been an earlier sighting from the Queenstown area the previous September 30th, 1970, when two witnesses on the road to Strahan near the Queenstown Airport had sighted a yellow saucer-shaped light with a beam of light below. It had travelled north, whilst the witnesses returned quickly to Queenstown. They returned to the area later on but there was no sign of their UFO.

\* Reference is made to the famous Tully Nests, Queensland, Ngatea, New Zealand, N.S.W. - Richmond River, 1969.



Sketch of Lynchford areas.

#### BELL-SHAPED UFO SEEN AT BRIGHTON

19. 6. 71

It was a clear, frosty night as Mr. G. Purcell returned to his quarters during a C.M.F. camp at Brighton Army Camp. It was about 2.55a.m., he recalled.

Purcell paused and glanced towards the night sky, the stars clearer than in the usual city view, bright and twinkling high above. Suddenly, he noticed a strange light to the south-east, which came from a strange object that was stationary above the paddock next to the camp. It was only some 200 yds. distant and he was able to judge, from the pine trees that bordered the camp, that it was about 100 ft. up.

.../6

The object was a squat bell-shape with a dull silver body area; there was a white hazy-like vapour around the top of the object which gave the impression of having a glass dome on top. The object appeared to be 15 ft. high and 20 ft. across.

Purcell watched amazed as the mysterious object remained in its hovering position over the paddock; he made no attempt to approach any closer. Five minutes passed before the object moved 300 yds. across the paddock directly in front of Purcell but still remaining beyond the pine trees. As it moved, the orange exhaust below strengthened, a vapour shot from beneath towards the ground, which the witness described as a rainbow, orange, red, green and blue to violet colours.

The vapour died away to an orange glow as the object came to a halt. All was silent as the stars twinkled above; Purcell could hear no noise from the object.

For about 3 minutes the object remained stationary, then another burst of exhaust heralded its next move. Silently, it rose slightly and moved away from the witness about 100 yds. before hovering once again. A further 3 minutes elapsed before the object began to rise. As it climbed, it seemed to assume more of a disc-like shape, then it gave a flash and shot off into the north-eastern sky at high speed.

It was now about ten past three and Purcell was once more alone, the stars gleaming above and the frost crunching underfoot as he turned to continue on his way.

#### WHY WILMOT? (Even more landings)

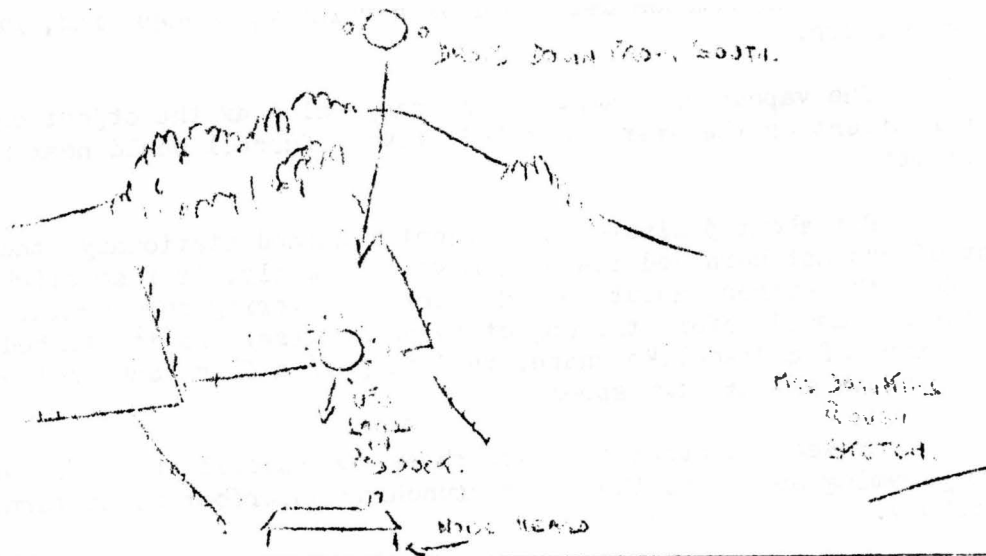
Just over a month after Mr. Riley's experience on the road to Wilmot, there was a further low-level report from Wilmot itself. The date was June 24th and the time 10.45p.m. when the sighting commenced.

Mrs. R.H. Dawkins noticed from her window what she thought at first was a plane in trouble. She was looking to the south and could see a round, bright white light or object with a small light on either side. The object was losing height towards a nearby paddock. It dropped below the skyline and landed in the paddock. Mrs. Dawkins turned off the lights to get a better view.

The residents of a house even nearer to the paddock told Mrs. Dawkins later that they had retired for the evening but about the time the UFO appeared they heard a noise like a jet plane which suddenly cut off. Mrs. Dawkins did not hear any sound. She went next door to call her mother-in-law to see the puzzling object. Together they went out in the road to get a straight-on view of the lights. They were only some 400 yds. from the UFO. Mrs. Dawkins' uncle joined them but by now the UFO had dimmed its lights, the side lights had gone out, only to be replaced by 12 smaller lights around the large central light. An estimate on the UFO placed it about 20 ft. in diameter. Throughout

the sighting, the dogs and cats at the Dawkins house cried and barked. The witnesses watched the UFO stationary in the paddock for an hour-and-a-half when it finally vanished. There was no smoke, sound - nothing. The lights just went out, Mrs. Dawkins said.

TUFOIC could find no rational explanation for this case; once again, we have had a reaction from the animals in the immediate area of an UFO. There seems to be a very strong case just because of that. An Unidentified Flying Object landed at Wilmot on June 24th. The question one could ask is, why at Wilmot?



#### SECOND LANDING AT WILMOT?

"Experience led to doubts" said the "Mercury" on July 10th, going on to relate the sighting of an UFO by Mr. V. Williams and his children on the previous evening. The report said Mr. Williams was dubious about such things but now he believes there well may be UFO's.

Mr. Williams' farm is just a few miles west of our last report at the farming centre of Narrawa. His farm is some 100 ft. above the paddock in which his children noticed a strange bright, white light at 7.30p.m. on July 9th.

Mr. Williams viewed the UFO through binoculars thinking at first there could be hunters down in his paddock. The UFO was a mere 300 yds. away just in front of the paddock gate. Its size was estimated at 16 ft. long by 4 ft. high. The object was very bright but did not seem to light up the surrounding area at all. As Mr. Williams watched the UFO, it seemed to flare up and flicker at each end, and seemed to float along about 20 yds. then changed to a red colour.

Mr. Williams decided to drive down to the gate and investigate the puzzling light. However, en route he lost sight of the gate and, on arriving, found the object had moved. He could now see the same or similar object in a paddock some  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile to the east. Deciding he couldn't catch the UFO,



Mr. Williams went to see some relatives and, on his return half an hour later, there was no sign of the light. (No marks were found at the UFO site next day). Reflections of the moon on fog banks as an explanation was put forward regarding the recent Wilmot sightings. In the Narrawa case, it was firmly established that there was no fog in the area at the time of the sighting. The Erriba records (6 miles south) recorded no fog, whilst the Hobart Weather Bureau stated that conditions were not conducive to fog at the time.

### SEPTEMBER LIGHTS?

Following publicity on the Lynchford case and TUFOIC's radio programme, a number of reports were received in the following weeks, but we were able to find a logical answer to most - flares, planets, planes and meteorites. On August 15th, reports were made from the N-W Coast, Launceston, West Coast and Hobart but this would appear to have been a meteorite shower or space debris re-entry.

In the early hours of August 28th, we had our first sighting of manoeuvring lights - the sighting lasted 10 minutes. A motorist noticed the lights moving across a clear patch in the cloudy sky and stopped to watch the yellow-white lights near the Brooker Highway clover-leaf. Three lights moved across the sky, one larger to the rear and flashing. At 40° elevation, the lights travelled from east to west; the small lights went into cloud; the larger was lost to view over Mt. Stuart. Two patrons at the East Side Drive-In had similar reports to make to the Centre on September 7th. They noticed a larger-than-usual star-like light at 30° elevation over the city. A second smaller light appeared alongside the larger light and then moved some distance to the South-East before halting. Meanwhile, the original light increased in size as if the light source was shining at the witnesses. The small light now vanished and some 5 seconds later the first light faded away.

The final sighting was on September 26th by two people travelling south on the Midland Highway at Jericho. At 8.45p.m., they saw a round, blue white light for some 45 seconds. The light had an apparent size of an  $\frac{1}{8}$ " at arm's length and was at 20° to 30° elevation above Northumbria Hill (1,898 ft.). It appeared to be travelling in a southerly direction but gaining elevation, and it then dropped towards the skyline before suddenly reversing direction and disappearing upwards to the north in a flash.

### THE DECEMBER FLAP

#### The Flap Starts

TUFOIC's Christmas present came early, starting on the evening of December 3rd, with a sighting from Sandy Bay beach of a saucer-shaped, white and gold object which shot up into the sky, then across to the horizon.

There followed on for the rest of the month a steady flow of reports; at the time of writing, the total is about two dozen. Good coverage in the press and on 7HO News has given TUFOIC good publicity and many witnesses have contacted the Centre direct.

Due to limited space, we cannot go into details of each report and possible findings and explanations. A valid comment would be that our 'arch rival' Venus could have been responsible for some of the reports not detailed here for that very reason.

From Claremont on December 4th/5th, we have reports of yellow-orange objects, and rocket-like UFO's crossing the sky north to south. They lit up the area and an explosion was heard prior to one report. This was followed the next evening by a report of two white, elongated objects being seen from the Elwick Drive-In. They moved north-East to South-West at an elevation of 30° and were lost to sight near Mt. Wellington.

The night of December 7th/8th brought two reports, one from New Town - most probably Venus - but the second from Lachlan proved to be very interesting.

#### Lachlan Case

The longest sighting of the flap commenced at 10.55p.m. at a Mr. A. de Blas' farm, of Forest Hill, Lachlan. Mr. de Blas was finishing irrigation work in his hopfield when he noticed a light approaching from the north. The object came closer and looked, to our witness, like a helicopter. It seemed to be making for the tractor as if using its lights as a reference for a landing. De Blas could see what looked like the cockpit bubble lit up by a red-orange glow as if from inside; to the left was a small bright, white light. With high tension lines across the hopfield, De Blas realised a landing there would be useless; he turned off the tractor's lights and engine. The object now was within a mile, gliding silently towards the hopfield. De Blas could hear no sound; he vacated the tractor and ran up the lane towards the farm. As he ran, he expected to hear a crash any second.

On reaching the house, he could see what we will now call the UFO receding into the sky. He called out to his family to see the object. Mrs. de Blas recalls that the dogs at the time were kicking up a fuss.

Mr. F.R. Nuttall remembers hearing on his car radio that the time was 11.20p.m. as he passed the de Blas farm en route to work in New Norfolk. He saw what he thought at first was a light plane coming in for a crash landing. Then he realised it was stationary and at 30° elevation with an apparent size of 2" at arm's length. He could see a hat-shaped red glow with two amber orbs at the base of the hat. Nearing New Norfolk, the UFO was lost to view from the car's field of vision above the top of the windscreen.

The UFO was also seen by Mrs. S. Hansen who lives about a mile north of the de Blas farm. Also about 11.20p.m., she saw a brazil nut shaped orange-red object to her north. She watched the object until 11.40p.m. when it seemed to fade away towards Black Hills.

Meanwhile, Mr. de Blas had called Mr. D.R. Moults, the "Mercury" rep. in New Norfolk. He and his sons had left New Nfk. at once and around 11.25p.m. sighted the UFO half a mile from the farm. The Moults stopped to look at the object. They could see two orange-red circular lights with a third light to their left. They had an overall elliptical-shaped glow. The object was at a high angle, possibly up to 70° and seemed large and low. Moults lined up the UFO which started to move slowly north. Moving from the west they saw a bright white light, which stopped in mid-flight, pulsed three times then moved out of

sight behind some hills. Unknown to the Moults, de Blas had flashed his spotlight at the light and claimed it had pulsed three times in reply.

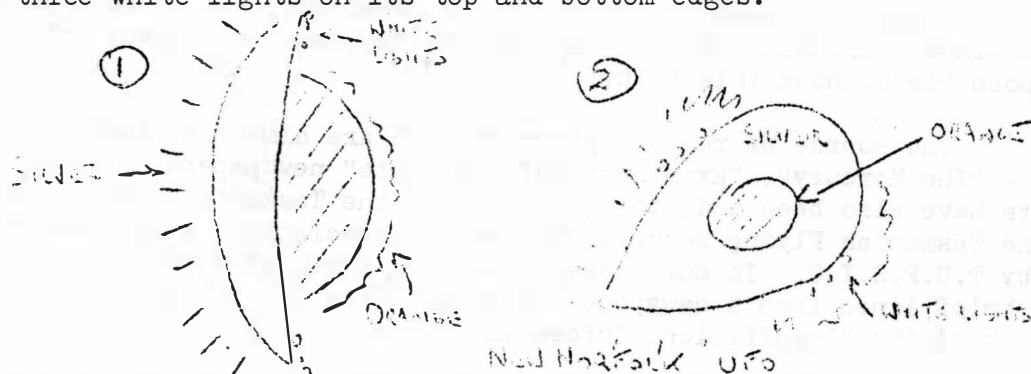
The Moults returned to New Norfolk to check with the Airport that there were no planes in the area; the answer was in the negative. They also lost sight of the UFO near New Norfolk. It seemed to be lost above a cloudbank over the township. The Weather Bureau confirmed the cloud cover was at 3,000 feet and decreasing as the night progressed.

After midnight the Moults returned to the farm and kept a vigil with Mr. de Blas until after 2.30a.m., watching the original light gradually recede to the north. It seemed to be on a north-south beat never approaching as closely as on its previous position. Some further 3 to 4 lights were seen to approach the UFO from the west and one from the east. This seemed to merge with the parent light. The UFO at times faded out to the north and would then return, at one stage, it illuminated the clouds above and behind it.

Returning home to New Norfolk, Mr. Moults recalls the UFO was lost to sight behind the hills to the north of New Norfolk. The case remains unexplained.

#### New Norfolk Again

A photograph from Montrose that appeared in the "S.E.M." on the 10th was probably of Venus; the planet was in the right direction at the right time. The centre had 2 or 3 other reports at the weekend but UFO's did not appear to be involved. However, New Norfolk presented another unexplained sighting at 9.45p.m. on December 14th when three teenagers and an adult saw a puzzling object from Charlotte Street. The saucer-shaped object was in a vertical position at chimney-top height. It had a silver base with an orange flickering dome and three white lights on its top and bottom edges.



The object was in sight for 2 or 3 minutes before turning to reveal its top and climb away over Peppermint Hill.

Minutes later, a clap-bang shook the area and was heard all over New Norfolk and at Upper Plenty where Mr. V. Feil said his dogs were disturbed all night. Police were unable to find what could have caused the explosion. The sighting is unexplained.

#### Flap Continues

At 6.20 the following morning, Mrs. H. Parker of Bridgewater glanced across the river and a flash on the hill behind Granton caught her eye. She could see a round, silver object stationary by a patch on the hillside, and

seemed to flash like a mirror. After two minutes, it turned slowly to give a more oval-disc appearance. It rose up to the skyline, hovered for a minute and then was gone over the crest of the hill.

The next case with strong evidence for an UFO was on December 22nd at 4.30a.m. The witness was looking over the Kingston/Storm Bay area from Fern Tree when she noticed a disc like an inverted plate, which was a shiny light gold-yellow in a line between her and Betsy Island. The object seemed to be trailing a long, thin pipe.

The witness watched the UFO for ten minutes. It slowly rose to a viewing angle above Betsy Island, then finally seemed to move away to the South-East, probably being obscured by a low, ragged cloud in that direction.

At the time of our report being printed, sightings and investigations are continuing. A sighting of a moving orange-red light seen to the west from Lauderdale; five people who saw an oval-shaped object near Sorell the same night (December 26th). The latest report is of a low-flying object which moved across the sky near Margate. Should sightings continue, T.U.F.O.I.C. will print further details in a newssheet early in the New Year.

#### TASMANIAN U.F.O's. An Analysis by K. Roberts

Attempting to evaluate any UFO sighting is a difficult task, not to mention trying to sort out reports in Tasmania in the past 20 years or so. Deductions in this analysis are those of the writer only; where any reasonable explanation was forthcoming to explain the case, this has been accepted.

Firstly, a word of thanks to our President, Mr. E. Bantick, for making his cuttings available. These date back to 1950 and the survey would not have been possible without this help.

The source of reports prior to 1965 are almost exclusively from the press - "The Mercury", "Examiner" and "Advocate" newspapers. Since 1965, reports have also been made to T.U.F.O.I.C., the Tasmanian U.F.O. Bureau (L'ton.) and the Tasmanian Flying Saucers Observers' Association, whose records are now held by T.U.F.O.I.C. In some cases there are pages of details; in others just a few brief lines from a newspaper cutting. Many of the early cases make up the bulk of the "Insufficient Information" classification.

Prior to 1965 except during the famous "Cressy Affair" of October, 1960 there are no UFO sightings listed. A lack of documentation and details in the reports makes a definite conclusion difficult. Looking in the "Possible UFO" section will give an indication of reports during this earlier period.

I have heard of a report going back to just after the First World War, otherwise our next case is 1948. There was a slight increase in reports from 1950/51 onwards, then a small peak about 1954/55 during that year's world-wide flap. The years 1957/58 found another build-up which coincided with the

wave in South America. In 1959 there was a flap in the rest of Australia but Tasmania seems to have remained quiet, however, this was made up by the wave of cases in the North Midlands centering on Cressy in October, 1960.

The formation of UFO groups in the mid sixties has ensured a steady flow of reports, but although the total cases have increased, the UFO percentage has remained relatively low. Recently there appears to be more low-level sightings in localised areas. Winter of 1969 saw reports from the East Coast and Hobart areas. Then in 1971 the scene shifted to the north of the State and Queenstown, finishing with a spate of cases from the south this year.

#### SIGHTINGS ANALYSIS

<u>Year</u>	<u>reports</u>	<u>UFO's.</u>	<u>Possible UFO's</u>	<u>Reports Explained</u>
1948	1	-	1	-
1949	-	-	-	-
1950	7	-	1	6
1951	2	-	2	-
1952	3	-	1	2
1953	1	-	-	1
1954	8	-	1	7
1955	7	-	4	3
1956	3	-	2	1
1957	22	-	3	19
1958	11	-	3	8
1959	7	-	-	7
1960	24	4	2	18
1961	13	-	2	11
1962	5	-	-	5
1963	5	-	2	3
1964	5	-	-	5
1965	14	5	1	8
1966	33	7	6	20
1967	18	3	1	14
1968	25	1	5	19
1969	55	6	8	41
1970	36	4	6	26
1971	74	7	8	59
TOTAL :	<u>379</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>283</u>

#### ANALYSIS OF SIGHTINGS

U.F.O.	37	Weather Balloons	7
Possible U.F.O.	59	Sky Rockets	1
Insufficient Information	110	Fungus/Spiders' Webs	3
Astronomical Phenomena	101	Workmen/Buildings	3
Meteorological "	16	Flares	6
Acroplanes	16	Lens Analysis	1
Satellites	14	Scrub Fire	2
		Possible Hoax	3
		TOTAL :	<u>379</u>

OLD SIGHTINGS COME TO HAND1. Levendale - 23. 4.63

Reports from other years are always filtering in to the Centre and as a sample we listed two cases. Our first was on the files of T.F.S.O.A. whose sighting forms we now hold. Mr. A. (name on files) was spotlighting from his tractor for rabbits; the time was about 10.30p.m. on a rather dark and cloudy night. He noticed a light to the west but thought at the time it was a reflection from his spotlight which he was flashing around. After he had stopped his tractor and turned the light off, he was disturbed to see the light still there; for about 15 minutes, he watched the yellow disc-shaped light until it started to approach his position.

The object approached in a circular fashion, moving south of Mr. A., then swinging past east until the object reached a northerly location but all the time closing in. Mr. A. decided it was time to leave. He put the tractor into top gear and went for home. Meanwhile, our UFO circled closer, doing a second circuit around the fleeing Mr. A. He was sure it was very low - possibly 150 feet up. Completing its second turn, the UFO passed over Mr. A. and his tractor lighting up the ground with a beam of light and slowing as it went over. Mr. A. recalls that as the UFO went away from him in a south-easterly direction, he could see the barn about 400 yards away quite clearly.

Unknown to Mr. A., there had been reports of an UFO from Woodsdale a few days earlier. Do we have here an early low-level report?

2. Granton - October, 1965

We now come forward a few years, in fact, it was at this time that T.U.F.O.I.C. was formed but only this year did we learn of the sighting by the Gunton family of Granton.

The Guntons were awoken about 3 to 4 o'clock in the morning by the barking of their greyhounds; although they often barked at night this time, they went on longer than usual.

On going outside to find out what the fuss was about, our witnesses noticed a dark, elliptical object south-east of the house and apparently just above the ground some  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile away. The object had a variety of colours beaming out in all directions, rays of orange that seemed to rotate around the dark centre, interspersed with green and blue.

Silently, the object began to rise. At first the Guntons thought a helicopter had landed in the paddock but the absence of noise and its strange method of ascent ruled this out. The object seemed to rise, pause a second, then continue upwards at a faster speed until it just disappeared at some 70° elevation to the south-east.

Admittedly, an old report with no basis for investigation, however, the rotating colours resemble our June Brighton case.



CALENDAR OF MAIN REPORTS

1970	June	Trevallyn	-	Blue/white saucer seen, driver says car slowed (U.F.O. Observer, Launceston).
	Sept. 25	Latrobe	-	Orange disc seen 4 mins., 3 white lights and dome (U.F.O. Observer, Launceston).
	29	Queenstown	-	Yellow-white disc, moves to north (U.F.O. observer, Launceston).
	Nov.	Evandale	-	Photo taken of blue-white pulsating object (U.F.O. Observer, Launceston).
*	Dec. 18/19	Mt. Wellington		Lights seen approaching and leaving dome obj.
1971	Jan. 7	Launceston	-	Saucer object seen fluttering in sky 10 mins. (U.F.O. Observer, Launceston).
	24	Launceston	-	Nine white saucers seen to north-east in formation (U.F.O. Observer, Launceston).
	Feb. 20	St. Leonards	-	Red-blue-yellow-white U.F.O. crossed sky at 1,500 ft. (U.F.O. Observer, Launceston).
*	Mar. 17	Mt. Stuart	-	Three silver-blue lights seen, photo taken, could be Venus.
*	29	Bellerive	-	White light crossed sky at high altitude.
*	May 17	Burnie	-	Mystery cobwebs fall from sky.
	22	Norwood	-	Object lands by road, crushes undergrowth, leaves in a flash (U.F.O. Observer, L'ton.).
*	23	Cethana	--	Motorist paced for 2-3 miles by round, red UFO.
*	25	Lynchford	-	Humming noise heard, dogs upset, flattened areas found.
*	30	Lynchford	-	Strange light pulsating, with beam below and red light seen.
*	June 19	Brighton	-	Bell-shaped UFO, silent, seen at 200 yards.
*	24	Wilmot	-	White, oval UFO lands in paddock; no marks on ground; over one hour.
*	July 9	Wilmot	-	UFO 15' x 4' seen by paddock gate, moves off to another paddock.
	25	Punchbowl	-	Two witnesses see orange triangle 200 yards away, fades out (U.F.O. Observer, Launceston).
*	Aug.	Lynchford	-	Burnt circle found, probably hoax.
*	15	north, n-w., Hobart	-	Meteor-like objects seen, meteor shower, says D.C.A. (also U.F.O. observer, Launceston).
*	21	Hillwood	-	Four youths see 4 red lights, D.C.A. says 'plane in area (U.F.O. Observer, Launceston).
*	28	Hobart Domain	-	Three white lights seen flashing and crossing sky.
*	Sep. 7	Warrane	-	More white lights moving erratically.
*	26	Jericho	-	Final report of white light, reverses direction across sky.
	Oct. 19	Launceston	-	Orange football object seen, moves away to north-east (U.F.O. Observer, Launceston).
*	Dec. 4, 5,	Claremont, Elwick	-	Three reports of white rocket-cigar objects crossing sky.
*	Dec. 7, 8	Lachlan	-	Up to 10 witnesses see orange U.F.O., hat-shaped at low level, no explanation.

Dec.	14	New Norfolk	- Vertical saucer with orange and white lights seen, explosion shakes area minutes later.
*	15	Bridgewater	- Oval-disc object shining like mirror, goes over Mt. Faulkner.
*	22	Fern Tree	- Disc seen 4.30a.m., moves away to east.
*	26	Sorell/Lauderdale/ Howden	Motorists report seeing U.F.O.'s.

\* T.U.F.O.I.C. investigations.

# DON'T FORGET — — UFO REPORTS TO T U F O I C.

Sighting Officers - K. BENNETTO Phone 285248  
K. ROBERTS " 236009 (Evenings only).

Or write to - 62 Leonard Avenue, MOONAH, 7009.

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